Government to increase the inflow of foreign tourists to the country include improvement of infrastructural facilities, intensive development of specific circuits and special tourism areas and strengthening of publicity campaigns in the tourist generating markets.

Loss of spares with Air India

3162. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to a news item captioned "Air India spares worth Rs. 11 crore untraceable" as reported in the Indian Express of the 27th November, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had appointed a Committee to probe into the physical verification of the spares;

(d) if so, what are the details of the recommendations of the Committee;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed by Government; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Outstanding Dues against M/s. Festival of India

3163. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a credit was given to M/s. Festival of India under the then Ministry of Culture in 1986 by Ashok Travels and Tours of ITDC and a sum of about Rs. 98 lakhs is outstanding against them as on date;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Festival of India exists no more as on date and it is becoming difficult for ITDC Management to get their amount realised from them;

(c) if so, what is the factual position in this regard;

(d) whether any action has been initiated by ITDC Management/ Government to fix up the responsibility on ITDC officials for not realising the said huge amount from M/s. Festival of India during the last six years; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above in negative, the reasons and justification therefor and as to how the said amount from M/s. Festival of India will now be realised by the ITDC Management?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The amount outstanding against the Department of Culture for providing services by ITDC in Festival of India is of the order of Rs. 43.44 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The ITDC has been in correspondence with the Department of Culture to realise the outstanding amounts.

Foreign Tourist Cheated in the Country

3164. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign tourists visiting the country are cheated by professional cheats in various parts of the country particularly in the National Capital generally on the pretext of exchanging foreign currency on higher rates or for purchasing their electronic goods;

(b) if so, what is the number of cases of cheating of foreign tourists that were reported in various parts of the country particularly in the capital during the last one year; and